

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 EUR-12 /082 W

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R 271557Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3100

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PLO EG XF

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN CONCERN RE PROSPECT OF SINAI DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT

1. AFTER THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS BY PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN
DAMASCUS, PLO (Wafa) NEWS AGENCY ISSUED STATEMENT HERE FEB 26
CHARGING THAT ONGOING ME SETTLEMENT EFFORTS ARE "PLOT" BY US AND
ISRAEL TO ACHIEVE "PARTIAL SOLUTION" OF ME CONFLICT AND THEREBY
SEPARATE EGYPT FROM HER SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN ALLIES AND STRIKE
AT "PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION". STATEMENT CALLED ON ALL ARAB STATES
TO OPPOSE "US DESIGNS" AND VOWED THAT PLO WILL NOT RECOGNIZE AND
WILL OPPOSE "ANY DECISIONS OR ARRANGEMENTS" RESULTING FROM
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CURRENT EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY "ANY DECISIONS
WHICH AFFECT PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE".

IT ALSO DEMANDED CONTINUED ADHERENCE BY ALL ARAB STATES TO RESOLU-

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TIONS RE ARAB SOLIDARITY AND PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS" ADOPTED AT ALGIERS

AND RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCES.

2. AT SAME TIME, PLO SPOKESMAN YASIR ABD RABBO ANNOUNCED HERE THAT 'ARAFAT HAD CABLED CONGRATULATIONS TO SYRIAN PRES ASSAD FOR LATTER'S LATEST REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE, AND THAT PLO IS DISPATCHING EMISSARIES TO VARIOUS ARAB AND OTHER "FRIENDLY" CAPITALS TO ENSURE SUPPORT FOR PLO POSITION. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT 'ARAFAT IS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO VISIT CAIRO IN NEAR FUTURE FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CURRENT SITUATION WITH PRES SADAT. EGYPTIAN COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN POLICY, WARNED ABD RABBO, WILL NOT LEAD TO "LIBERATION" OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BUT WILL INSTEAD "FREEZE" ME CONFLICT AT EXPENSE OF "RIGHTS AND INTERESTS" BELONGING TO "OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES" (I.E., PALESTINIANS, SYRIANS AND OTHER ARABS).

3. COMMENT: ABOVE PLO BROADSIDE IS LATEST INDICATION OF GROWING CONCERN ON PART OF PLO LEADERSHIP AND FEDAYEEN RANK-AND-FILE THAT EGYPTIANS ARE SO BENT ON ACHIEVING FURTHER SINAI DISENGAGEMENT THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO OFFER "UNTHINKABLE" CONCESSIONS TO ISRAEL. THIS FEAR SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASINGLY PERVADED OTHERWISE INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS FEDAYEEN FORUMS (PLO EX COMM, CENTRAL COUNCIL AND FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE) WHICH HAVE MET HERE AND IN DAMASCUS OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. RESULT HAS BEEN TO HEIGHTEN PALESTINIAN EMOTIONS AGAINST NOTION OF FURTHER "STEPS" IN SINAI, IN CONJUNCTION WITH PLO EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE (AND KEEP IN CLOSE STEP WITH) SYRIAN ACTIVITY AIMED AT INCREASING PRESSURE ON EGYPT (PARA 3 DAMASCUS 682). WE SEE PLO LEADERSHIP'S TACTICS IN MUCH THE SAME LIGHT AS EMBASSY DAMASCUS VIEWS SARG'S--I.E., TO KEEP THEIR OPTIONS OPEN BY (A) DIRECTING BARRAGE OF TOUGH-SOUNDING CRITICISM AGAINST SADAT, WHILE (B) AT SAME TIME WAITING ANXIOUSLY TO SEE WHAT FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITIES AMY ARISE FOR THEM DURING AND AFTER ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS. HOUGHTON

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